

## Claims

1. A network component for an optical network, comprising
  - an optical transmitter or receiver, in particular an optical transceiver,
  - an optical splitting device, which is connected directly or indirectly to the optical transmitter or receiver, wherein the optical splitting device has an asymmetrical splitting ratio, transferring light into different fibers or accepting light from different fibers.
2. The network component according to claim 1, wherein said optical transceiver is connected to a path-protected passive-optical metro access ring.
3. The network component according to claim 1, wherein said optical transceiver comprises an optical splitting device with an asymmetrical splitting ratio, corresponding to the path attenuation of the ring segments it is connected to.
4. The network component according to claim 1, wherein the splitting ratio of said optical splitting device is adjustable, in particular by mechanic or electronic means.
5. The network component according to claim 1, wherein a multiplexer is connected between the optical splitting device and said optical transceiver or wherein a multiplexer is connected behind the optical splitting device and said optical transceiver.
6. The network component according to claim 1, wherein the optical splitting device is an all-fiber device (e.g. fused fiber coupler), a bulk optic device (e.g. a lens-coupled mirror), an integrated optic arrangement or a micromechanical setup.
7. A passive optical ring network, wherein the network comprises a network node comprising a component according to claim 1.

8. The passive optical ring network according to claim 7, wherein the network comprises at least one optical transceiver having an asymmetrical optical splitting device being connected to asymmetrical ring segments, wherein the optical asymmetrical splitting ratio corresponds to the attenuation ratio of the ring segments.
9. The passive optical ring network according to claim 7, wherein the network comprises optical transceiver with an optical splitting device having an asymmetrical splitting ratio, which is adapted to path attenuation of the optical transceiver in the access ring.
10. The passive optical ring network according to claim 7, wherein a multiplexer connects a plurality of customer stations to the network.
11. A method of driving a passive optical ring network, wherein a node comprising an optical transmitter or receiver, in particular a transceiver, being connected to asymmetrical ring segments, splits the light corresponding to the attenuation ratio of the ring segments.
12. The method according to claim 11, wherein the splitting ratio is self-adjusting.